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General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (*c*)

# Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.3)*]

## 57/257. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolution 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

*Noting* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

*Taking into account* the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks from the negative impacts of climate change,

*Noting* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] has attracted ninety-seven ratifications,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of India for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5]

*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[7]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] strongly urge the States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[8] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[9] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

5. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report in a timely manner to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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*20 December 2002*

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[5] See A/57/359.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] Ibid., para. 23.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.3)*]

### 57/258. World Climate Change Conference

*The General Assembly*,

*Acknowledging* that change in the earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind,

*Acknowledging also* that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

*Welcoming* the ongoing work in the United Nations system on climate change, in particular within the framework of the Convention, which is the key instrument for addressing this global concern,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3]

*Taking into account also* the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

*Recognizing with concern* the findings of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[4] in which the Panel confirmed that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, and recognizing the ongoing consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the implications of the report,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Climate Change 2001* (Cambridge, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, July 2001 and March 2002), four volumes.

*Reaffirming* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in which States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner,[6]

*Recognizing* the need for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange of scientific data and information,

*Stressing* that the World Climate Change Conference will be supportive of the Convention process,

*Noting* the importance of broad participation in this process by Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation to convene the World Climate Change Conference at Moscow from 29 September to 3 October 2003 as a forum for the exchange of views among the scientific community, Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the private sector and other representatives of civil society and for facilitating the implementation of existing policies related to climate change;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international and national organizations, parliaments, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society, to participate actively in the Conference;

3. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Conference in order to increase awareness of the importance of international efforts to address climate change.

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[5] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 38.

# General Assembly

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**Fifty-seventh session**
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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/532/Add.4)*]

### 57/259. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3]

*Noting with interest* the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

*Welcoming* the outcomes of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the decision on making land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, a new focal area of the Facility,

*Recognizing* the strong commitment of the international community, demonstrated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to make the Facility available as a

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

financial mechanism of the Convention, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, and in this regard encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as the supreme body of the Convention, to take the appropriate decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held at Havana from 25 August to 5 September 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1] pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should so decide, and in this regard notes with satisfaction that the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility has requested the Council of the Facility to consider any such decision of the Conference of the Parties with a view to making the necessary arrangements;

3. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session, in response to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention as a means of promoting the availability of financial mechanisms, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of the Facility and the Global Mechanism in providing and mobilizing resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes;

4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the successful implementation of the Convention by supporting financial mechanisms such as the Facility, so as to fully achieve the objectives of the Convention;

5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2003 meeting to finalize and adopt the operational programme for land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation;

6. *Emphasizes* that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention need the full and effective support of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, and other partners for capacity-building and other activities which assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund which will provide additional resources necessary to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries;

8. *Calls upon* all countries and other entities in a position to do so to make additional contributions to the Global Environment Facility;

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[4] A/57/177.

9. *Notes with appreciation* the increased number of developing countries that are parties to the Convention and that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urges the affected parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes, with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

10. *Invites* affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in that regard encourages countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

12. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and encourages further efforts in that regard for the effective implementation of the Convention;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute to the implementation of action programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements as well as the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

14. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002–2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000–2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

15. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] and encourages continuing cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to implement decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board,[7] pertaining to the cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Development Programme, in order to mainstream activities to combat desertification at the national, subregional and regional levels;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 15* (E/2000/35), part four.

other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[8] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

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[8] ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7–11.